The action taken by the Government on the above demands are:

The suggestions for allowing only such of the technologies as permitted by the Supreme Court has already been considered for incorporation and further processing. The recommendations of the Murari Committee are already being implemented. Regarding the request of enhanced kerosene quota, the Ministry of Petroleum has informed that kerosene is released on a monthly basis to all the States against an annual quota fixed for each State. Separate allocation for fisheries purpose is to be made by the concerned States. Regarding diesel concession, a study has been taken up and the issue be considered while formulating schemes for X Plan. Inland fishermen are already covered under the saving-cum-relief scheme since June, 2000. Since this is a programme implemented with cost sharing between Centre, State and beneficiary, the willingness of State Governments have been requested for inclusion of women to which only three States have communicated their consent. The Government have already issued necessary orders banning monsoon fishing by trawlers during specified period in both east and west coast. Government of Gujarat has already ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of Captain Pratap Save. Ministry of Agriculture is committed to ensure that there is no surge in imports that will affect the interests of fishermen. Government is in a position to impose higher import duty. Appropriate actions have already been taken for the expeditious release of fishermen kept in custody.

Increasing the agricultural production

2120. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the fall in agricultural production; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to enhance the production and productivity of agriculture crops, making available quality inputs like Seeds, Fertilisers, Credit and improved agricultural implements and disseminating information and advanced technologies. Besides, the Government is also helping in marketing and trade of agricultural produce. The Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is a concerted effort to enhance the production of these crops. A Technology Mission on Cotton has been recently launched as also a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern Region. Under the Macro Management Programme, the State Governments have been given flexibility to adopt regionally differentiated strategies and allocate funds to the specific crops/activities as per their priorities.

(c) The estimate of production of major crops during 2000-01 as compared to the previous year are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Vagaries of weather are the cause of decline in agricultural production during the year 2000-2001. The overall rainfall during monsoon was deficient by 8% which was accentuated during the subsequent seasons. The western part of India especially Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh faced acute rainfall deficiency as a result of which large areas faced drought conditions. Deficient rains adversely affected the irrigation potential also.

Statement

Production Estimates of Agricultural Crops

Crop	Final estimates 1999-2000	Advance estimates as on 29.6.01 2000-2001
Rice	89.48	86.3
Wheat	75.57	68.46
Coarse cereals	30.47	30.25

Crop	Final estimates 1999-2000	Advance estimates as on 29.6.01 2000-2001
Cereals Total	195.52	185.01
Pulses Total	13.35	11.06
Foodgrains Total	208.87	196.07
Nine Oilseeds	208.7	182.0
Cotton	116.4	93.9
Jute	94.2	92.5
Sugarcane	2992.3	3003.2

Assistance to Chhattisgarh for Floods

†2121. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has asked for Rs. 125 crore from the Central Government to deal with the calamity of recent floods in the State;

(b) if so, the amount provided by Government to Chhattisgarh for relief, rehabilitation and other works in the aftermath of havoc of floods;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when and what amount would be provided to Chhattisgarh, like other States, from the calamity relief fund and other funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An Inter-Ministerial Central Team is visiting the State from 8th to 10th August, 2001 for an assessment of the situation.

Committee on agricultural marketing practices

2122. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 16 member expert group, headed by Shri Shankarlal Guru, Chairman of International Society for Agricultural Marketing,

†Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.